THE GENESEE FARMER.

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N. GOODSELL, EDITOR.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

BATTERSEA AND EARLY YORK CABBAGE.

Mr. Goodsell—Although both these kinds of cabbage may be raised in the open air in this climate, yet those who wish good *slaw* heads in the month of June or early in July, should sow their seed in a hot-bed about the first of April. These plants may be removed into the open air about the first of May, and treated in the ordinary way, and will furnish a good supply of heads early in July; at least a month earlier than they can be raised in the open air. At present the seeds of these kinds of cabbage are m stly imported from England, at great expense, which may be avoided, as I know by experience, by sowing a few seeds of each kind between the first and middle of July; these being transplanted and treated like any other cabbages, will come into head in the fall, and may be kept over the winter. And if set out in the spring following, will furnish a plentiful supply of seeds, as good as any that can be imported: observe, however, that in setting them out in the spring, each kind should be kept by itself, and as remote as possible from any other sort; otherwise they will intermix, and soon degenerate into a mongrel kind. Such is the result of my experience, and I communicate it to you, with a wish that it may be of service to some of your readers. I remain yours, respectfully.

R. M. WILLIAMS.

Middlesex, Feb. 20, 1832.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

PEA NUTS.

Mr. Goodsell—These nuts are known in our southern states by the various names of pindars, ground nuts and pea nuts, and are cultivated to considerable extent by the negroes. I have shipped and sold them to the confectioners and fruiterers of Philadelphia, New-York and Boston, at from twelve to thirty-six shillings a bushel. In this climate they should be sown in a hot-bed between the twentieth of March and the first of April, and may be transplanted into the open air about the first of May, on a bed prepared for them as we would prepare any other garden-bed.

They should be set about four inches apart in the row, and the rows about eight inches apart: when they have taken good root and begin to grow, they should be spread on the ground, and put a little dirt on the center of the plant: they will spread over the ground, striking root at every half inch, and every root becoming a pea nut, and by the first of November following, will have filled the ground to overflowing with nuts. To prepare them for eating, they are usually parched with the huck on; but for seed they should be in their natural state. Many people are extremely fond of them, and our confectioners make great use of them; and some of your readers may have the curiosity to cultivate them sparingly. They love a sandy soil best, but almost any soil will do. Yours, &c.

R. M. WILLIAMS.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

OKRA.

Mr. Goodsell.—This is also a southern plant, requiring the aid of a hot-bed to insure success in this climate. The seed should be sown about the first of April in a hot-bed, and may be transplanted into the open air the first of May, in rows about three feet apart, and the plants about fifteen inches apart in the rows. The pods, which resemble those of our common milk weed, are the only part used. They are boiled, dressed, and served up at the table very much as asparagus is with us, or they are cut into small pieces and put into soup, and render it very rich and nutritious. Many people are extremely fond of it, and it is cultivated to a very considerable extent in most of the gardens of the south. Yours, etc.

R. M. W.

Middlesex, Feb'y 24th, 1832.

Note.—This is a proper place to give the following extract of a letter to the Editor, from John D. Legare, Esq. Editor of the Southern Agriculturist:

"In my letter to you on "Okra soup," there is an error, which may mislead those who are unacquainted with the plant. In page 260, vol. 1, first column, line 4 of 2d paragraph, I observe, "They (the pods) are of a proper size when two or three inches long, but may be used as long as they remain tender, which is judged of by their "*bitterness.*" It should be "*brittleness,*" for the okra pod is not bitter at any stage of its growth I regret I did not think to forward some of the white okra seeds. This variety of the okra is superior to the others, being a greater bearer, and the pods growing to a greater length without becoming woody. There are several varieties, and on your obtaining a good one, will depend in some measure your success."

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

CAYENNE PEPPER.

Mr. Goodsell—This variety of the capsicum is much smaller and stronger than any of the kinds usually cultivated among us, and in this climate will rarely succeed in the open air. The seed should therefore be sown about the first of April in a hot-bed, and transplanted about the first of May into the open air, in a bed prepared for the purpose, about three inches apart in the row, and the rows about twelve inches apart. In like manner may be cultivated a bed of early lettuce, or any other garden plant which we may be desirous of having earlier than can be raised in the open air. Yours, etcetera,

R. M. WILLIAMS.

Middlesex, Feb'y 24th, 1832.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

HARD NAMES.

To the Editor of the Genesee Farmer:

There is one subject to which I wish to call your attention, and a subject with which your paper as well as the farming interests are in my opinion, as well as in the opinion of many others, in a considerable degree interested. I mean the use of *hard names*, applied by some of your correspondents in their communications.

The principal object of your paper is to disseminate useful information to our farmers, and to improve the taste of its readers for horticultural pursuits. It has been questioned whether the *languages* are necessary to be understood by the common farmer. Be that as it may, those who are able to use and understand Botanical or Latin names, it is to be presumed will know how to explain them in English, or by their common names, in addition to their perhaps more proper terms. But few farmers that might be induced by a publication like yours to turn their attention to the cultivation of forest trees, would without explanation, know what was meant by "acer pennsylvanicum," "acer nigrum," "acer saccharinum," or "acer negundo." For instance, speaking of *Platanus occidentalis*, (say by way of explanation) "or plane tree, buttonwood, or sycamore, being the same tree," known under all these different names in America. It is unnecessary to say more on the subject, but barely suggest that the same remarks are applicable to plants, &c.

I think your paper, although very useful as it is now, would be rendered much more so by giving the *common* names of trees, plants, &c. by way of explanation. A. S.

Warsaw, March 5th, 1832.

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.

Our correspondent A. S. can hardly realize the difficulty attending the subject to which he alludes. From the extent to which botanical researches have been carried, the number of plants have been increased, so that few people can ever expect to become familiar with all those *species* at present arranged in our standard Botanical works, much less with the different *varieties* of each species.

To facilitate the study of botany, all plants have been arranged in *classes*, these *classes* have been divided into *orders*, *orders* have been divided into *genera*, *genera* into *species*, and *species* into *varieties*.

In the case of maples, as mentioned by A. S., which belong to the eighth class and first order, and genus *acer*, under which head Miller enumerates twenty different *species*, each of which contain a vast number of varieties, many of which are not known among us by any common names; and when we wish to speak of them we are compelled to have recourse to some botanical work; and here we find, for the reasons above given, that writers have been compelled to make use of such *terms* or *names* as were the most brief, and at the same time the most descriptive; and having adopted the Latin, we are compelled to follow them: but it is our intention in every case where we give the Latin name of a plant, to follow it with a common name if there is any, as suggested by our correspondent; and we hope the writers for the Farmer will, when consistent, adopt the same course.

In giving common names, some confusion may also occur, as the same plant may be known to different individuals by different names, which

we have shown to be the case with the sycamore, there being two different trees known at this time by people of the United States, both of which are different from the tree formerly known by that name.

Where a particular variety of plant cannot be designated without resorting to its botanical name, we hope our readers will excuse us for using it, however jaw-breaking and uncouth it may appear to them.

BEANS.

One of our readers has made some inquiries respecting the cultivation of beans as a field crop, which would have been answered sooner, but we have been wishing an interview with one of our friends who has raised several fine crops, but who has been confined by sickness so that we cannot avail ourselves of his experience at this time.

There are two kinds of beans cultivated as field crops, both belonging to the seventeenth class Diadelphia, and tenth order Decandria, which includes those plants whose stamens are united in one bundle. The genus *Vica* includes those upright growing ones, more commonly known as the early Mazagan, the Windsor, the Heligoland, and the Horse beans, which are altogether different from the dwarf or kidney beans which belong to the genus *Phaseolus*. EATON, in dividing this genus into species, puts down the common pole bean as *P. Vulgaris*, and the bush bean as *P. nanus*, both of which species are divided into innumerable varieties.

In perusing English authors, when speaking of beans as a field crop, the *Vica faba* are to be understood; but when we speak of beans for a field crop, we mean the *Phaseolis nanus* or common bush bean. The varieties more commonly selected with us are large and small white dwarfs, and the early China dwarf. The two former are entirely white, and the latter has a spot of deep red upon it: the two former have more spreading vines, and do not ripen so soon as the latter, which grows with less vine or bush, yields well and ripens early.

There are three methods of planting beans; the first in hills, second in drills, and the third is sowing them at broad cast. The advantage of either of these methods will depend much upon circumstances, the nature of the soil, whether it is free from weeds, and what crop is intended for the succeeding one. Upon light sandy soils where there are but few seeds, or where the land had been well tilled the preceding year, we have seen a fine crop of beans when sown broad cast at the rate of two bushels per acre; but where there is more strength of soil and more reason to expect weeds, we would recommend to plant them in drills at two and an half feet distant, which will allow them to be worked amongst with the plough. Light sandy lands are generally preferred for beans, for upon such lands they do not run so much to vines, ripen earlier, and are more easily tended. The produce of beans per acre varies with circumstances, from twenty-six to forty bushels, and the price in this market has been from seventy-five cents to one dollar per bushel.

We have never seen any of the varieties of *Vica faba* cultivated with us which proved a profitable crop: the seasons are too warm, and the stalk continues to grow with so much luxuriance that most of the early blossoms fall off without being succeeded by pods. The stalks of our common bush beans may be fed to sheep, who are fond of them, but horned cattle will not eat them.

MARCH.

During this month the weather is variable; storms are frequent, and in this latitude, sometimes severe, but we are regaled occasionally with some fine days; and at no season of the year does a fair day impart more pleasure to the Agriculturist, Horticulturist, or Florist, than during the month of March. It is a great relief, also, after having passed a long and tedious winter, to feel that spring has returned, bringing with it all its cares, for even cares when suitably varied afford pleasures to the business man, which can not be found in sloth and idleness. It is true that a good farmer is never without his cares; yet the changes which take place in them at this season of the year is peculiarly pleasant: his fields have been so long covered with the same white mantle, that his eye had become tired with the sight of it, and seemed hankering after some object on which it could rest with more ease and satisfaction. As if to enhance the pleasure of the change of nature's scenery, the sun's rays have been increasing, until they had begun to be even painful as reflected from the fields of snow; but as soon as the earth is uncovered, the excess of rays are absorbed, and the husbandman no longer scowls or walks with half closed eyes, but throwing up his countenance, sees all the vegetable kingdom waking into life; and he rejoices at seeing many favorite plants which had been so long hidden from his sight. His sympathies are also acted upon when he looks abroad upon the animal creation, every part of which seem rejoicing in the change of seasons, yet many of them demand a continuance of his nursing care to insure their multiplication. His flocks require his daily inspection, and neglect would surely be followed by the loss of profit. Many which have been allowed a wider range should now be confined within their yards, as during this month the ground is often so soft that the tread of cattle does serious injury to growing lands. Fences should be repaired; water courses kept open; manure collected; wood split and piled; farming utensils repaired; maple sugar made; seeds prepared; cions cut; pigs ringed; sheep tagged; and so on to the end of the chapter—and let every farmer remember that he who neglects his work in the spring, will be idle in harvest time, and poor in autumn.

GOLDEN LEAF TOBACCO.

We have received a small quantity of tobacco seed from Z. MATTESON, of Otsego County, which he calls the *golden leaved tobacco*. His description of its specific characters are not sufficient to enable us to give a full history of it, but presume the seeds should be sown early; and for that purpose we offer them gratis in small quantities to such farmers as wish to make an experiment with them.

Mr. Matteson speaks of this kind of tobacco as bearing a high price in the market for making cigars. The culture the same as other tobacco. Seeds also of the *Nicotiana fruticosa*, or shrubby tobacco, can be had at the office of the Farmer, gratis.

VULGAR ERRORS.

There is one subject to which we would invite the attention of our scientific readers, which, although it is supported by high authority, we have thought proper to put under the head of *vulgar errors;* it is that of the impregnation of the eggs of fishes after they have been ejected from the female. We are aware that to encounter such long received opinions, more especially when they are backed up by writers of high standing, is to "take up arms against a sea of trouble;" but by so doing we are in hopes that we may be justified in the use of the remaining part of the sentence, "and by opposing end them."

Now we grant that as fishes live in the water, mostly hidden from the sight of men, to ascertain all the points appertaining to the continuation of their species, is not as convenient as it is with most of our domestic animals; yet enough may be ascertained to show the absurdity of this position.

Loudon, in his Science of Agriculture, in speaking of *Animal Pathology*, makes the following remarks: "*In many kinds of fishes and reptiles*, the yolks, after being furnished with their glaire, are ejected from the body of the female, and the impregnating fluid in the male is afterwards peured over them. Impregnation can be effected readily in such cases, by the artificial application of the spermatic fluid."

In many things appertaining to agriculture, we consider Loudon as good authority; but we are not prepared to swallow every thing that is sent to us from our transatlantic brethren, without the privilege of tasting;—neither do we consider the antiquity of any theory as proof positive of its correctness. We think the time has arrived when the course of education should be changed, and that we should draw our conclusions from facts rather than fancy—from our own observations on such subjects as come within our reach, rather than depend on "old wive's fables."

That Mr. Loudon was not the originator of this theory, we grant, for it is coeval with the fables handed down to us of the mandrake root, which one of the early English writers tells us "*is never or very seldom to be found growing naturally, but under a gallows, where the matter that hath fallen from the dead body hath given it the shape of a man.—That he who would take up a plant thereof must tie a dog thereunto to pull it up, which will give a great shreeke at the digging up:* otherwise, if a man should do it, he should surely die in a short space after." Those in favor of the fish story are welcome to the tradition of the mandrake, both of which, we are ashamed to confess it, are still credited by many.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

RADISHES.

To raise good early Radishes, first obtain good seed; to do this, sow radish seed the latter part of July, late in the fall take them up, pack them in dry sand, and put them in the cellar; next spring set them out and gather the seed soon as ripe; this seed, if properly managed, will produce fine Radishes; but seed obtained the same season they are sown will not give good ones; they will be hard, woody, and wormy, and immediately run to seed, and the seed good for nothing but to *sell* with *wooden* pumpkin seed. E. H.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

LEISURE MOMENTS.—No. II.

In all ages of the world, and in all countries, Agriculture has been coeval with the first dawn of civilization, and national prosperity has ever been inseparably connected with the prosperity of the husbandman.

Without this art mankind would be but savages seeking a precarious subsistence in common with the beasts of the forest, with no other habitation than rude huts, or hollow trees and caverns, still more propitious to their wants.

The most renowned generals, and the most consummate statesmen that the world ever produced, have been engaged in rural occupations, and the pleasures of a country life have not been left unsung by poets of lofty verse.

Agriculture is not only one of the most honorable occupations in which man can be engaged, but is in every respect highly conducive to his welfare. It gives strength and health to the body, force and energy to the mind, and is particularly favorable to the formation of virtuous and temperate habits.

The Egyptians ascribed its invention to superhuman agency, and even worshiped the ox for his services as a laborer. The Carthagenians carried the art of Agriculture to a higher degree than any of their contemporaries. Mago, one of their generals, wrote twenty-eight volumes upon husbandry; these were preserved by Scipio at the taking of Carthage, and were so highly esteemed that they were translated into Greek by Cassius Dionysius of Utica, and into Latin by order of the Roman Senate.

Hessiod, a Greek writer, wrote a poem on Agriculture, called The Works and the Days. In the earliest and purest ages of the Roman Republic, the greatest praise which could be bestowed on any one, was to say that he was an industrious and prudent husbandman.

M. Cato the Censor, who was celebrated as a statesman, orator and general, derived his most lasting honors from his voluminous work on Agriculture, entitled "De Re Rustica," and it is said that the Georgies of Virgil is a poem the most perfect and finished of all Latin compositions.

Of all countries on the face of the globe, perhaps none is more favorable to Agriculture than the United States;—presenting an extensive territory of almost every soil and climate—embracing all the products of European cultivation—governed by laws the most wholesome—and illumined by the bright rays of the sun of science, it might well be asked, Why do not her favored sons, if their employment is honorable, dignified and indispensable, if they are filling the vocation which has called forth the energies of the ablest men of all ages,—why do they not better fill the rank in which they are stationed? In short, why have we not more scientific educated farmers?

Some there are, yes, not a few, who view a well educated farmer as an anomaly in nature.—A farmer sends his son to college, he returns after a certain period with neither a disposition to labor nor ability to manage farming concerns.—And why?

The father at once concludes that learning is incompatible with husbandry, and the son, after a few dreary months dragged out on the farm, returns to his books again, and concludes to be a professional man, and after a long time of deliberation, hesitation and vexation, enters on the study of Law, Medicine, or Divinity, and the father gives him up as a "spoiled child," and concludes to keep his next son at home as the only sure means of making a farmer of him. But it is not learning that spoils any man for a farmer. It is in all cases the want of it. Want of the right kind of an education. Did a knowledge of Geology, Mineralogy, Chemistry, Botany, Vegetable Physiology, or Natural Philosohpy, ever disqualify a man for Agricultural pursuits, or give him a disrelish for such occupations? And those who object to book farming I would just ask, what would have been the state of Agriculture at the present day without the aid of science? and where is the field for the Botanist and Chemist if not in rural pursuits, where nature in all her loveliness is carrying on her varied and harmonious operations, and unfolding to her votaries her innumerable beauties in the most attractive form.

YTUS.

P. S. When D. T. gets through with "Winter Birds," I hope he will tell us something about our Spring, Summer, and Autumn Birds.

STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

We have received the Proceedings of the State Convention in pamphlet form, published by the Executive Committee. The pamphlet contains the excellent Address of the President, LE RAY DE CHAUMONT, and the remarks of Judge SPENCER on the importance of the Silk Culture to our country—the Constitution of the State Agricultural Society, and has appended to it the following Circular from the Corresponding Secretary, to which we invite the attention of the public, and especially of the members of the General Committee of the State Society to whom it is more particularly addressed:

CIRCULAR.

Albany. Feb. 24, 1832.

Sir—You will perceive by the pamphlet which accompanies this, that a State Agricultural Society has been organized, for the purpose of improving our husbandry, horticulture, and household arts and that you have been designated as one of a general committee to aid in the furtherance of these objects of public utility

Without presuming to dictate, or to limit the exertions of the general committee, I would respectfully suggest that the following, among other subjects, will particularly merit their attention.

I. To encourage and promote the organization of county, or local society, of agriculture and horticulture, as a means of exciting laudable emulation, and of promoting habits of industry, economy of labor, and improvement in the moral and social condition of society.

II. To add to the numbers and means of the state societies, by soliciting names to their constitution, and contributions to their funds. As the society pays neither salaries nor perquisites, its funds will be exclusively devoted to public and useful objects; and it is believed the members will receive an equivalent for their subscription in the publications they shall become entitled to. The benefits which the society shall be able to dispense, will therefore be measured by the extent of its funds.

As one of the most efficient means of diffusing information, and thereby increasing its usefulness, the society contemplate the publication of a periodical work, devoted exclusively to improvements in the rural arts. The better to enable them to fulfil their wishes in this respect, permit me,

In the third place, to solicit communications, as well from others as from the members of the general committee, of well attested exeriments and facts,

1. *In Stock Husbandry*—in relation to the breeding, management, habits, diseases and the means of prevention and cure of all kinds of domestic animals—method of fattening, and choice of breeds.

2. *In Tillage Husbandry*—in relation to the cultivation of grains, grasses, field vegetables and other useful products—manures and their application, including lime, gypsum and marls—rotation of crops—improved implements—new articles of culture—draining—fences, including live fences—the orchard and manufacture of cider.

3. *In Horticulture*—in reference to the culture of fruit and ornamental trees, shrubs and plants, and methods of propagating them—the diseases to which they are incident, and the insects which do them injury, and the methods of prevention and cure—culinary vegetables, and the flower garden.

4. *In the Household Arts*—embracing household fabrics—rearing of silk worms—manufacture of butter and cheese—of domestic wines—the preservation of fruits, and their various preparations in household economy, &c.

By collecting together the practical knowledge of our best farmers and gardeners, in their respective branches of labor, a very valuable fund of information will be obtained, which, while it impoverishes not the contributors, cannot fail to enrich, very greatly, the community at large. Such contributions, like the offerings of charity, are blessed to the giver as well as the receiver. It is a satisfaction perhaps somewhat peculiar to the philanthropic tiller of the soil, that while he is improving by intelligence, skill and industry, his own temporal and moral condition, he is, by his example, benefiting those around him, and that his benefactions, in this way, are co-extensive with the knowledge and importance of his improvements.

Your name has been inserted on the general committee, under the impression that the society would find in you an efficient co-operator, in their labors of usefulness. Should you, however, unexpectedly decline the duties which the appointment imposes, I beg to be notified thereof as early as convenient, that the executive committee may appoint another in your stead.

As the society propose to issue their first publication in the present year, it is desirable that communications intended for the publication, the invitation for which is intended to be general, should be forwarded to me as early in the autumn as convenient.

Very respectfully,

J. BUEL, *Cor. Sec'y.*

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

MANURING ORCHARDS.

Pulverized bones, scraps of leather, tanner's bark, all are good to place about the roots of a tree to keep the ground open and the trees healthy. Never use fresh barn manure; it is worse than nothing; it makes the wood grow fast, and the fruit will be poor.

*S.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

ON THE BEST SHRUBS FOR HEDGES.

An immense waste and cost of wood and labor is bestowed in the United States on Fences, amounting yearly to nearly $15,000,000! including repairs. Our system of fencing originated once in the superabundance of wood, but it has spoiled the rural scenery of America, and now is become too precarious and expensive. It is absolutely necessary to begin in all the improving farming districts, where the land is good and stones as well as wood rather scarce, a different mode of enclosing fields, such as hedges, now merely confined to a few districts of the middle states. Hedges are cheaper and more durable than fences, handsomer, and may even be made profitable. During many years' travel in fifteen states, I have studied the subject, and shall give in a few words the results of my inquiries.

Hedges may be divided into Field hedges and Garden hedges, and each of these into four series. 1. Thorny evergreens. 2. Thorny deciduous 3. Thornless evergreens. 4. Thornless deciduous. Their value is in the order stated; but some kinds are besides more valuable by longevity, hardiness, beauty, facility of growth and a profitable crop of leaves or fruit!

First Series. *Thorny Evergreen Shrubs.*

1. Juniperus. Juniper bush and Cedars. We have three wild species, one of which, peculiar to New-York and Canada, *J. depressa*, Raf. 1817, forms an impenetrable thorny bush, like the European Juniper. All are hardy, grow well from berries and slips, bear trimming in any way, last for ages or for ever, with care; are uninjured by any animal or insect; the leaves and berries are medical. Excellent for garden fences, as good as a wall. I have seen at Germantown such a hedge around the garden of Dr. Belton: it is four feet high, nearly two feet thick, cut square all around, and only twenty years old. I put this first in value.

2. Ilex, or Holly, comes next. Nearly as good, valuable and profitable, but of slower growth, and not filling so well below, nor bearing the scissors. Medical also; bark and berries have many uses. See medical Flora of U. S. N. A. pg. 53.

Second Series. *Thornless Evergreen Shrubs.*

3. Thuya or Arborvita. Very pretty garden hedges. Grows with the utmost facility from cuttings, which seldom happens with evergreens. Bears trimming, but its natural fan like growth is too pretty to be spoiled; can be set as crowded as we like. Neither cattle nor insect touch it.—Lasts a century.

4. Buxus or Box. Is too well known for comment, similar to the last, but not so pretty, too slow for hedges, rather used for borders.

5. Ligustrum or Privet. Similar to Box, better for hedges, but liable to insects.

6. Abies or Spruce and Firs. These huge trees may be compelled to form fine spreading hedges by cutting their upper shoots, and allowing them to grow sideways. They would last long, and be very handsome, mixed with Roses and Briars to entangle them; but they are delicate and liable to injuries: they thrive best in Canada and the coldest regions.

Third Series. *Thorny deciduous Shrubs.*

7. Malus Coronaria, Crab Apple Excellent, hardy; beautiful sweet blossoms, good fruit for preserves. Would make delightful field fences, with some Briar fillings. Bears trimming and lives 200 years.

8. Toxylon, Raf. 1817. Bow-wood or Ayae of Arkansas. Lately introduced as far north as Pennsylvania, grows well from cuttings as quick as a willow, very hardy. Excellent thorny hedges. Fine large fruit. Wood dies yellow like Fustic.

9. Gleditsia or Honey locust. Large tree, bearing cutting and to be kept in hedge form, makes a hedge in three years. The most horny variety is the best. Col. Mead of Kentucky made fence of it, planted in a standing position The cattle may bruise the leaves, but never break through. Leaves good fodder: pods much relished by sheep in the winter.

10. Cratægus or Thorn. The fine hedges of Chester County in Pennsylvania, and Newcastle County in Delaware, of 100 years' standing, and forming a peculiar rural beauty, are mostly made of *Cr. crusgalli* or the American Cockspur Thorn. Excellent, very lasting and easily kept. The *Cr. oxyacantha* or European Thorn is more precarious and never so bushy or large with us. Many other kinds of wild Thorn will do as well: the *Cr. cocinea* above all.

11. Prunus spinosa. Thorny Sloe. Not uncommon in Pennsylvania but precarious, because not native.

12. Berberis. Barberry. Very good hedges, but require some care, ought to be mixed with other Shrubs or Briers, many uses.

13. Rhamnus. Buckthorn. Native, similar to the last, demand care. Medical.

14. Xanthoxylon. Prickly Ash. Forms a thin hedge: but may be mixed. Very useful medical Shrub. See my med. flora N. A. Sp. 96.

15. Rosa. All the thorny Roses form beautiful hedges either alone or to fill up. Delightful for gardens, and would make the fields to bloom in beauty.

16. Rubus. Blackberry. As good as Roses, and affording a fruit: much used for filling and entangling other hedges. Raspberries and Brambles eqally good.

17. Smilax. Briars. Excellent prickly vines to entangle mixed hedges. Roots medical, very useful.

Fourth Series. *Thornless deciduous Shrubs.*

18. Ulmus. Elm. May be trained to hedges; the invaluable *U. fulva* or Slippery Elm ought to be preferred.

19. Ostrya. Hornbeam. Better still, forms a thick hedge.

20. Morus. Mulberry. I left for the last this most valuable tree. It bears cutting, and is often raised in silk countries as a shrub and hedge, to collect the leaves easier. Grows with the utmost facility, lasting sixty years at least. It may be entangled with Roses, Briars and Brambles, but better still by *Grape Vines* as in Italy. It will give a profitable crop of leaves for Silk, and berries to eat. As a mere support of Vines, it saves the cost of poles and much care. A hedge of white or red mulberries would repay tenfold the cost of sowing or planting. Let us hope that the general introduction and production of Grapes and Wine, Mulberries and Silk, will go hand in hand throughout our country, which will both furnish two great staples of Agriculture, as invaluable as the cotton and sugar of the southern states, to gratify and enrich our Farmers.

C. S. RAFINESQUE,
Prof. of Hist. and Nat. Sciences.
Philadelphia, 25th Feb'y. 1832.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

AN APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC ON THE SUBJECT OF CANADA THISTLES.

Mr. Editor—May I be permitted through the medium of your popular Journal to invite attention to a subject, on which I am sure none can contemplate with complacency? The farmers of this country should know that they are invaded by a formidable enemy, and that this enemy threatens the entire conquest of their valuable and beloved domains. The Canada Thistle, than which no enemy is more to be dreaded by the farmer, has long since made its appearance, and been permitted to gain extensive dominions in the country. It increases with an alarming rapidity, and threatens in a short time to prevail universally on every farm, in every field, and almost in every street and lane in western New-York. Nor will it stop here. It has already sent out detatchments into all parts of the state. We hear also of its having entered the neighboring states, and gained in some of them extensive dominions. If unmolested in its formidable march it will, at no very distant day, establish its fatal empire over the whole of North America. Great blame attaches to the occupants of the soil, who have seen the approach of this enemy, and done so little to resist his progress. Yet it will not be just to bestow censure indiscriminately. Individuals doubtless there have been, in almost every place, who have seen the danger, sounded the alarm, and done what they could in their individual capacities to arrest the progress of the enemy. It was but little that they could do, except in their own self defence; and in this they have generally been so far successful as to deny the enemy a possession on their own premises. This position they will not be able to maintain much longer. As the enemy gains strength the conflict increases in severity; and these prudent and patriotic citizens, unless speedily assisted, will be compelled to surrender. Many a good farmer finds himself so unfortunate as to be surrounded by farmers of a very different character. While thistles are permitted to grow and disseminate seed in farms adjacent to his own, his case becomes very discouraging.

If at an early day government had interposed in a proper manner, the progress of the Canada Thistle might have been easily arrested. It might have been foreseen that nothing less than a system of measures, that could be made to bear authoritatively upon the whole community, could effect this object. If such a system had in due season been put into operation by legislative authority, it would have been the means of preventing great evils, evils now bearing, and threatening to bear heavily, upon the present generation, but with more tremendous weight upon the generations to follow. Legislatures have not unfrequently passed laws for the destruction of noxious animals. Why has it not been thought, at least, equally necessary to legislate for the destruction of noxious weeds? Laws have been enacted for the destruction of wolves, bears, pan-

thers, catamounts, &c. yet neither of these animals, nor all of them together, nay, nor the whole army, vast as it is, of deleterious animals, have ever done or threatened to do half the injury that is likely to be done by Canada Thistles. The mischievous and ruinous tendency of the Canada Thistle is so generally and so well known, that it is scarcely necessary to occupy time in noticing its pernicious effects. Wherever it takes possession and is permitted to grow without restraint, it soon occupies the soil exclusively, rejecting all other vegetables. Of course the land on which it grows is rendered useless. Unlike many other vegetables, which, after having occupied the soil a few years, disappear, the Canada Thistle, if I am not mistaken, is one of that species of weeds which will hold on, and maintain possession from generation to generation. It is certain that a long time must elapse before it will relinquish its hold. How embarrassing it is to the operations of husbandry, how offensive to the eye, and how afflicting to the flesh, when coming in its contact, let them say who have had the misfortune to become conversant with it. The denunciation, "Thistles shall it bring forth," was, beyond all dispute, a tremendous curse upon the ground.

It may now be a question, whether the time for successful legislation in this state against the Canada Thistle has not gone by. It has spread so far and gained so extensive possessions in almost all parts of the state, that it may be doubted whether by any practicable means its progress can be arrested. Although the case presents serious difficulties, and indicates the necessity of prompt, vigorous, general and united effort, yet it is not my opinion, that it has become hopeless. I believe the evil complained of, great and appalling as it is, yet admits of a remedy. My principal fears are, that it will not be possible to inspire a confidence in such a belief sufficiently strong and general, to lead to proper experiments.

I propose, then, that a system of measures for destroying Canada Thistles be instituted by government, and be prosecuted under its authority. It is certain that no other system than such as will be authoritative, compulsory, and highly energetic, will avail in the least, towards effecting the object. It must also have a general and indiscriminate application to the whole state. It can scarcely be doubted that a general conviction prevails throughout the state, that the Canada Thistle is a loathsome intruder, and a formidable foe to the general interest. Suppose, then, that measures be taken to elicit a public expression of sentiment on the subject—that all the towns in the state be called upon as communities to take the subject into consideration; and, if they think proper, to petition the Legislature to pass such wise and energetic laws as will be likely to stop the spread of Canada Thistles, and ultimately to banish them from the country. Are we to doubt the success of such an application to the yeomanry of the State of New-York? I should be disappointed if an experiment of this kind did not result in an almost unanimous appeal to the Legislature, to do all that it could do to deliver the State from so grievous a pest as the Canada Thistle threatens to become. This preparatory step having been taken, the Legislature will be prepared for prompt, bold, and energetic action.

Suppose, then, laws should be past, rendering it obligatory on all the towns to take care of their Canada Thistles, and to do this so effectually as to prevent any from ripening and disseminating seed. A system of laws adapted to this novel subject of legislation must necessarily embrace many details. In order to ensure the execution of such laws, provision must be made for the appointment in each of the towns of one person, or more than one, as the case may require, to have the care and superintendence of the business.—These superintendents must, under severe penalties, be rendered responsible for the faithful discharge of the trust reposed in them. It must not be left to the discretion of towns to appoint such officers, or not to appoint them, according to their pleasure. The statute must on this point, and on all others, be rigidly compulsory. The better to serve the execution of the laws, it will probably be better to establish a two fold responsibility; the one, that of superintendents of towns to the towns appointing them; the other, that of towns to county tribunals, which may be composed of the boards of supervisors.

The proposed war against Canada Thistles cannot be waged and carried on with prospects of victory without funds. Taxation for this purpose to a moderate extent must be submitted to. And who, in contemplation of an object so important, would not cheerfully submit? It will not be practicable in all cases to compel the occupants of farms, on which Canada Thistles grow, to sustain the whole expense of subjecting them to such discipline as will be required. This would be unjust and cruel, for it would impose on many individuals a burden too grievous for them to bear. It will be necessary that the towns be compelled by law to provide funds for this purpose. I am not prepared to exhibit an estimate of what would be the probable amount of expenses to the towns, incident to carrying into operation such a system of laws as has been here suggested. It would probably be much less than at first thought most people would suppose. It would be greater in some towns than in others, according to the prevalence of the thistle. When I consider how much might be done in the term of four or five months by one able bodied man, in cutting and otherwise disturbing Canada Thistles, I am led to suppose that the expenses which will accrue to the town in carrying this plan into successful operation, need not be considered as formidable. Perhaps a sum to be raised annually for a few years, not greater, or not much greater, than that which is annually paid by the towns for the support of common schools, would be sufficient to supply the means of successfully combating and subduing the Canada Thistle. Suppose four or five able and active men, supplied with implements well adapted to the work, should be entirely devoted to this business from the first of June to the first of October, four months; what could they not accomplish in that time? In hunting for Canada Thistles, they search and research all the commons, all the fields, all the lanes and by-places in their respective towns, and in the mean time they could cut and re-cut immense quantities of thistles. Although hard and grievous burdens should not be imposed on the unfortunate occupants of farms on which thistles grow, yet it will be just and reasonable to require them to do something, and in many cases, to do much towards taking care of their own thistles. In all cases it should be rendered obligatory on them, to make known to the town officers all the places on their respective premises, where the thistle may be found. But whatever may be done by occupants, it will be necessary for the town superintendents to exercise a general supervision over all the farms in their respective towns, to see that the whole work is done, and well done.

I am satisfied that the labor and expense of ridding farms and countries of noxious weeds, when they have acquired but partial and limited possessions, are of much less magnitude than is generally supposed. It happens, fortunately, that I have some knowledge about this, derived from my own experience. If Providence should permit, it is not unlikely that, at another time, I may publish some of the details and results of my practice. That it is practicable to introduce into this state a system of measures that will have the effect to banish in a few years the Canada Thistle from our territory, I fully believe.—Almost the only question in relation to this subject should be that of practicability. The object is so immensely important, that considerations of expense should scarcely be allowed to have any bearing on the case. The import of the question is little less than whether it be possible to rescue the State of New-York from ruin. What then is it worth? and what may be paid for its ransom?

I do not, however, consider that the universal spread and dominion of the Canada Thistle over the state, will bring ruin to such an extent as entirely to depopulate the country. Yet, circumstances so disastrous will render the country an undesirable place of abode; greatly decrease the useful products of the soil; depress the value of lands, and undoubtedly be the means of depopulation to a considerable extent. What agriculturist, desiring to establish himself as a farmer, would seek for such an establishment in a country already under the dominion of Canada Thistles? I can say for myself that, were I now in early life, and in pursuit of a farm on which I intended to spend my days, I would sooner go to the wilds of Michigan and buy me a farm there, than accept one that was overrun with Canada Thistles in any part of the State of New-York, although I might have the latter without a price. Perhaps, however, I ought not to suppose that my fellow citizens, in general, are so restless when in company with Canada Thistles as I am, for I acknowledge the fact, that I never look on those fruits of the apostacy without feeling sensations of uneasiness. To whatever extent farmers may indulge themselves in apathy in relation to the Canada Thistle, and permit it to extend its dominion, fearless as many seem to be of consequences, they may be assured that, whenever it shall have become triumphant on their farms, the value of them will be depressed at least fifty per cent.—Such a state of things in relation to all the farms in the country, unless prevented by prompt, vigorous, and persevering means, is near, even at our doors.

As in the exposition of my plan of operations against Canada Thistles I have extended my views only to such processes as will prevent their farther spread by the dissemination of seed, my readers may not be satisfied. It may be said,

this will not destroy them; they will yet hold their possessions, and be annually widening their bounds by the extension of roots. I am aware that this plant is remarkably tenacious of life, and is not to be overcome without persevering efforts. But as I hope ere long to publish another essay on this subject, in which it will be my principal object to exhibit the best means yet known for destroying Canada Thistles, and other noxious weeds, I shall now wave these considerations.—Cutting thistles, if done at proper times and in a thorough manner, will at least stop their further spread by the dissemination of seed. This being done, I apprehend it will not be difficult to pursue a system of operations, by which the Canada Thistle may in a little time be entirely overcome, and be banished from the country. Such an achievement would be of much greater value to the State of New-York, than her celebrated and justly appreciated canals.

It occurs to me that if the late patriotic movements in this state, in relation to its agricultural interest, should result in the establishment of a Board of Agriculture, this interesting concern will happily fall to the province of that department. It will be the legitimate province of that body to devise and mature a system of operations adapted to the exigencies of the case; and to direct the subsequent movements of its machinery. The subject on which I have now written forcibly suggests the importance of maintaining, at all times, an institution of this kind. If during the last twenty-five or thirty years, there had been maintained in this state a distinct official department for agriculture, with an incumbent at its head, whose duty it had been to watch over the interests of agriculture, and sound an alarm when an enemy was known to be approaching, we can scarcely suppose that the Canada Thistle would have been permitted to spread to an extent so alarming as it has.

In conclusion, let me remark, that the case now presented, appears to me to be a plain one. The Canada Thistle, known to be chief and generalissimo of the formidable army of deleterious vegetable intruders, has, during a series of years, been making inroads upon the country, and this too at a ratio of increase constantly accelerating. It now prevails to an alarming extent, and threatens a speedy and universal conquest of the country. The efforts of individuals against the enemy, can avail only to beat him off for a little while from their own premises. The interposition of government in this case is absolutely necessary. Let government proclaim war against the common enemy, and send out its armies to subdue him. I doubt not that his conquest might now be easily achieved; but if this be delayed much longer, the time for doing it will have gone by, and then the good people of this state will have no alternative but to submit, and be vassals to the most cruel tyrant that ever wielded the sceptre of empire. I close here; and if what I have written should be of no public utility, it will be a solace to me through my life, to cherish the recollection that I have sounded this alarm.

DAN BRADLEY.

Marcellus, 1st March, 1832.

☞ We should like to hear from our Western Subscriber.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

THE MULBERRY TREE, SILK WORMS, &c.

Translated from the French for the GENESEE FARMER, from a work entitled *The Practical Course of Agriculture.*

(Continued from page 76.)

The food of silk worms, and the different periods of casting their skins.—The worms require attention according to their age: as soon as they are out of the shell they seek food. It is necessary to give them those leaves only which are proper for their age: young worms cannot eat leaves which are too old; and those more advanced find a too weak nourishment in a leaf just beginning to open, and would consume four times as many as they would of those which are proper for them.

The quantity of leaves which should be given to the worms should be proportioned to their number and appetite, which may be ascertained at their time of feeding: if the leaves of the former meal are entirely consumed, and nothing remains but the fragments, the quantity should be increased at the next; on the contrary, if a part is left untouched, less must be put. The main point is not to let the worms fast, taking care, however, that more leaves are not consumed than are necessary.

The leaves should not be gathered before the sun has dissipated the morning dew: those gathered when it rains, and given to worms when still wet, are very hurtful to them. If, however, the intemperature of the weather is such that the leaves must needs be gathered when wet, they should be dried by spreading them on cloths in an airy garret, or some other dry place, without heaping them, and taking care to stir them from time to time, in order to prevent their heating.

Leaves gathered in good condition, that is to say, free from rain or dew, and without having been left to heat, after having been collected together on a cloth, they should be removed to a cool place, in the shade, in order to preserve them only for the space of twenty-four hours, at least when a rain or storm had been anticipated, and it had been necessary to lay in a double quantity of food; in that case care should be taken that the leaves are heaped, and the beds should not be more than two or three inches thick.

Silk worms, like other caterpillars, cast their skins four times before they make their cocoons: all these castings are sorts of diseases by which great numbers perish. When the worms are about to cast their skins, their appetite increases during twenty-four hours before the first casting; it lasts thirty-six hours at the second, forty-eight at the third, and sixty at the last. At these different periods they should be fed four times a day, and at each time the quantity of leaves should be increased: this attention causes the worms to fill better, and gives them strength to cast their skins.

Too great heat fatigues the worms during the time of casting: the most favorable temperature is that of eighteen degrees, or twenty at the utmost. A casting is known to be good, when the worms move briskly, when lightly blown upon after they have finished their casting: when they devour the leaf with avidity, and are uniform in thickness and length.

The most exact cleanliness should be observed in the spinning place: no matter which can rot or putrify, no fragments of leaves, no dry excrements, no dead or dying worm, should be left there. The worms should be often removed from the litter formed by the fragments of leaves, and by their excrements; this is necessary both for the salubrity of the air, and for the health of the insects; the most simple method is, that when fresh leaves have been given to the worms, and they have crawled upon them, to take the leaves by the stems, and place them on other hurdles, that those on which they were before may be cleaned. Where they are well attended to, the litter is removed once or twice, as it may be necessary, from one casting to another, during the two first ages. From the end of the first casting to the end of the second, the worms require by degrees the same attention; but as they take up little room, they may be kept in a small space: but after the third casting they must be put in other hurdles or boxes, and should be equalized, by putting together those which have cast their skins at the same time. The extent of their shelves should be in proportion to the number of worms: those which are produced from one ounce of seed should consequently occupy a space of sixty feet; when they have attained their full growth, and the more space they occupy, the better they prosper.

From the end of the third casting to the end of the fourth, the worms require great cleanliness; because eating much they make much excrement: at this casting they are from twenty to twenty-two lines in length: their heads are large, and their bodies thick set; they have a light flesh colored tinge, but after two or three days their color becomes clearer, when they are about to enter the great *freze* or *brije*, which is an extraordinary appetite. Then the quantity of food should be more abundant, and given every four hours.

The third casting has always been considered the most dangerous for silk worms, and that in which they are subject to the most diseases; then their food should be taken from the oldest mulberries. When they have passed the fourth and last casting, they have arrived at that period of their life in which they take up the most room, and when they eat the most; their appetite increases above all after the three first days; their hunger and avidity is unparalleled, and always in proportion to the degree of heat which is given them. This hunger continues during six or eight days: then the worms begin to spin their cocoons.

It is not at all necessary to try to shorten this period by an augmentation of heat, because the cocoons would be thin and poorly furnished with silk; the worms would not be fed long enough, in this state, to prepare in a proper manner the soft gum which they draw from their food.—When the worms have passed through the fourth casting, they should be cleaned often, and the purest air possible should be given them, without exposing them to a current of air so cool as to kill them. (*To be continued.*)

Prune your vines in dry clear weather, after the leaves are fallen; but do not put it off later than the last of March. One object in pruning is to save the tender shoots from the frost, and another to bring the fruit bearing parts of a vine near the old wood. If the frost bites the tender shoot, if it is not cut off the vine loses its vigor

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

THE WEEPING WILLOW,

Salix Babylonica.

This is a tree of singular beauty. It grows with astonishing rapidity, especially in a soil tolerably moist and rich. It is the earliest of all to leaf out in the spring, and the last to shed its foliage in autumn. Its branches are a bright green, and bend down with a gracefulness which no other tree possesses. No house on a farm, or in a scattered village ought to be without one or two of them. They will grow by taking a limb and sticking it a foot deep in the ground. Now is the time to cut limbs for planting, before the buds swell.—They ought to be put into the earth as soon as the frost is out. An iron bar makes the best hole if the ground be kept soft. A year or two protection will answer the purpose, and they will then take care of themselves. The garden is the best place to plant them for two or three years, if you can not protect them conveniently where they are to grow.

ULMUS.

LETTER FROM DAVID THOMAS.

Greatfield, 3 mo. 7, 1832.

N. GOODSELL—In my fruit garden, I have examined more than a hundred blossom buds of the peach, the nectarine, and the apricot, and have invariably found the petals, stamina, and pistils, discolored and dead. Of course we are not to expect the trees to exhibit blossoms this season.

This destruction is not to be ascribed to any unusual severity of winter, but to the buds being *started* by the mild weather of last autumn. At that time, I observed several bulbous plants in flower which commonly continue dormant till spring; and the peach buds are now found to be so large that a few more days of warm weather at that time, would probably have brought them into full blossom. —

The Cayuga Lake was more frozen a few days since than it has been known to be, since the first settlement of the country, 44 years ago. Several persons of *Aurora*, passed on the ice from that place into Seneca county, and carefully measured the distance. This extraordinary production of ice has not arisen from the cold being more intense than in any other winter, but from its long continuance. —

Writers on Vegetable Physiology say that *the sap* is imbibed by the roots, and ascends through the *alburnum* or sap-wood into the branches and the leaves, where it undergoes a change. "When *the sap* is drawn from a tree early in the Spring, says *Nuttall*, the time when it moves or bleeds most freely, and *as near the root as possible*, it usually appears nearly as *colorless and limpid as water*, has *scarcely any taste*, and *no particular odor*." But "the sap in its progress dissolves some ready formed vegetable matter, which had been deposited at the close of the preceding autumn, in the upper part of the root, and at the base of the stem—and *the farther the part* which is bored to procure the sap, *is from the root, the more vegetable matter the fluid is found to contain*."

In conformity with these views, several persons who were not indebted to books for their ideas, but solely to their own observations, have remarked to me, "the higher we can tap our sugar maples from the ground, the sweeter is the sap; and the common practice of doing it *only at the height of two or three feet*, is wrong."

Should it appear of sufficient importance to the editor of the Genesee Farmer, he would oblige me by recommending to our sugar makers to try experiments on sap procured at different distances from the ground. Very respectfully,

DAVID THOMAS.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

WAX FOR GRAFTING.

Rosin, 5lbs—Bees wax, 2—Tallow, 2.

Melt these together; while hot dip a portion of it into cold water; as soon as it stiffens, gather it in the hands, having them previously rubbed with lard or soft grease to prevent its sticking, and work as shoe-makers do their wax, till it assumes a bright yellow color—continue on till the whole is finished, and lay it by for use.

GRAFTING.

Saw off the limbs on the branches intended for grafting, smooth the stumps with a drawing knife or stock shave, and set all the grafts intended for the tree. Then, if the weather is cold, have your wax in warm water, which by the tea kettle may be renewed as often as necessary from the kitchen fire; if the weather is warm the water is unnecessary. Having the hands greased, work the wax until it is soft and pliable, then evenly spread it with the fingers over the stump, down a little upon the bark, and on the clefts, and particularly nice about the grafts or cions, so as to exclude air and moisture, and the work is done. The hottest sun will not cause the wax to run, nor the coldest weather make it crack.

Last spring I set but few short of 800 cions in my own orchard, and used no other cement or covering whatever, and never grafts did better. I commenced setting the first of March, and continued as occasion offered till the trees were in the blossom, and can now pick out those first set by their luxuriant growth, being twice as large as the last ones set. Yours, respectfully,

E. HALL.

Woodstock, Feb. 9th, 1832.

FOR THE GENESEE FARMER.

PRUNING.

Penn-Yan, March 5th, 1832.

In examining *McMahon's American Gardener*, (a most judicious work) the following remarks appeared to me of sufficient importance to be inserted in your paper:

"As early in this month as possible finish pruning your cherries and plums; also before the end thereof your apple and pear trees. Peaches, nectarines, apricots, almonds, quinces, &c. should also be pruned early in the month, if not done before. The pruning of all kinds of fruit trees should be finished before their buds begin to push.

"Smooth the cut parts, and if the amputations are large, apply thereto a light covering of the medicated tar below mentioned, which is to be laid on with a painting brush; if under an inch in diameter, it is scarcely worth while to go to that trouble, for such when well pruned will heal and cover freely.

"The medicated tar is composed of half an ounce of corrosive sublimate reduced to a fine powder and then put into a three pint earthern pipkin with about half a gill of gin or other spirits, stirred well together and the sublimate thus dissolved. The pipkin must then be filled by degrees with common tar, and constantly stirred until the mixture is intimately blended. This quantity will be sufficient for two hundred trees. Being of a very poisonous nature it should not be suffered to lie carelessly about the house. The above composition will be found eminently useful, as no worm can live near its influence, and no evil whatever will arise to the tree from its poisonous quality. It yields to the growth of the bark, and affords a complete protection to the parts against the influence of the weather."

NOTE BY THE EDITOR.

In this latitude it is found by experience that the most favorable time for pruning trees is after the sap has begun to circulate; and we have never seen any great benefit derived from covering the wood where limbs have been cut off with tar or any composition. If one half the time that is spent in applying compositions was devoted to manuring and working the ground about the roots, it would be much better for the trees.

MR. GOODSELL—In your paper of the third of March, and in my communication concerning rats, I observe an error. The word *stewed* is used instead of *stirred*; as this may lead to ill consequences, I wish it may be noticed in some future number.

The oysters were stirred to mix the arsenic with them, and not stewed, but given raw on separate shells, three or four oysters to each shell, and a part of the liquor poured over them.

Yours, etc. R. M. W.

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SELECTIONS.—Circular from the State Agricultural Society—Making and Preserving Butter.

ROSES, DAHLIAS, STRAWBERRIES, & QUICKS.

THE Proprietors of the Albany Nursery have printed a classification of 140 of their finest roses, according to color, to enable purchasers to select a variety with certainty and economy; with characters denoting the size of the flower, habit, and pries. This may be seen at Thorburn & Sons seed store, and at 550 Broadway.

They have imported and propagated many varieties of the finest double Dahlias, which will be in flower in all August and September. They offer, from this date forward, plants of the Methven Strawberry, at $2 50 per hundred, 47 of those berries have weighed a pound, and the largest measure 4½ inches round. They have also at $5 per thousand, 50,000 quicks of the honey locust (*Gleditschia triacanthos*) for hedges, two years old, and fit for transplanting. Specimens of the fence may be seen at the Nursery, and at the Murray Hill Nursery, New-York.

☞Orders may be sent by mail, or left with L. TUCKER, at the office of the Genesee Farmer, Rochester.

BUEL & WILSON,
Albany Nursery

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FOR THE GENESEE FARMER

PROCESS OF RAISING WHEAT.

When Dryden sang—they yoked the cow
Remorseless to the laboring plough;
But still, as intellect did stalk on,
From bulls they manufactured oxen—
Whose patient labor and incessant toil,
Brok' with the plough the harshest soil,
To fit the ground for seedsman's stroll,—
The harrow 'meliorates the whole
See! the fresh blades of many-stranded wheat,
Spread a green carpet o'er the fallow, neat;
The fleecy snow descends and covers all—
The blades still grow beneath the feathery pall.

At length, the Spring begins to look around,
Uncovering fair the gay-clad fallow ground;
Upshoot the stalks—the "golden harvest" bends,
Fair days and Farmers then are—truest friends;
The sheaves are bound and put in lofty stacks;
The Wheat's *machined*, or flailed, with hearty whacks;
The price is high, and wife a dress does lack;
And husband shy, he fears the curtain clack—
So, *deary wears an acre on her pretty back.*
Thus ends my lay—
Parma, 1831 BUSH WHACK.

MAKING AND PRESERVING BUTTER.

BY J BUEL, OF ALBANY.

Butter is an important article in household economy; and as upon its quality depends very much the profits of the farmer as well as the comfort of the consumer, I send you, Mr. Editor, a few hints on the process of making and preserving it.

The art of *making* butter consists in separating, with skill and neatness, the oil from the serum and curd with which it is combined in the milk, and of seasoning it to suit the palate. The art of *preserving* good butter lies in so keeping it as to have it retain its rich, sweet flavor. The best method I know of effecting these objects, is embraced in the following rules:

1. In the first place see that your cows are supplied with a plenty of nutritious food. This is the raw material from which butter is made; and unless this is good and abundant, the manufactured article will be scanty and poor.

2. Let the milk be set in shallow broad pans, of wooden, tin, or stone earthen ware, to facilitate the separation of the cream, in a cool, clean apartment.* Red glazed earthen is bad; and lead is often poisonous. I think the best temperature is about 50° of Fahrenheit.

3. Let the cream or milk† be churned before it has become rancid or bitter; as at this stage it has lost its finest qualities for butter.

4. The operation of churning should be moderately and regularly performed.* If too slow, and at intervals only, the separation is tedious and uncertain. If violent, the cream is too much heated, and yields a white insipid butter.

5. Put no water with your cream nor with your milk. The flavor, I may say aroma, which gives to butter its high value, is extremely volatile, is disengaged by heat, and materially dissipated by water. Work the butter thoroughly with the butter ladle, in a wooden bowl, which may be set in water to cool the mass; and while this operation is being completed, mix pure fine salt† enough with the butter to season it for the table, and set it by in the bowl in a cool cellar till next day—at which time the salt will be completely dissolved, when it is to be thoroughly incorporated by again working the butter with the wooden ladle until every particle of liquid is expelled.

The *making* process is now completed. To *preserve* the rich flavor which this process secures, pack the butter nicely down in a perfectly tight sweet vessel, and none is better than a stone earthen jar, *without a particle of additional salt;* smooth the surface, and cover the top two inches with a strong cold brine, which has been made by boiling and skimming the materials. If a pellicle or scum is seen to rise upon the pickle, turn off the liquid, and replace it by fresh pickle.

I am accustomed to eat butter, of May, June and October, made and preserved in this way, when it is from six to twelve months old, without perceiving any material difference between it and that which is fresh made.—*N. E. Farmer.*

*A good practice prevails in Pennsylvania, of building stone milk houses over or near springs, where a proper temperature is maintained during the heat of summer. This practice is worthy of imitation where springs are convenient; and where they are not, a substitut which I saw at Col. '- Allister's at the Blue Ridge above Harrisburgh, may in many cases be adopted. The Colonel had built a neat underground room, in the side of the hill, near his well, handsomely plastered upon brick or stone walls, covered I think with earth, at all events with a luxuriant Bignonia radicans, which when I saw it was in full bloom. Around the sides wire sinks or vats for setting in his milk pans, so constructed that the water passed off ere it reached the rims of the pans, with plugs in the bottom to let the whole off when desired. A spout led from this pump into these sinks, through which the water was conducted. By renewing this water occasionally, according to the weather, an equilibrium was easily maintained in the milk house at the desired temperature.

†In a great part of New-York, the milk is churned; in New-England, generally only the cream The Dutch method I think produces the most butter.

*The dog churn is in general use in many counties, particularly upon the borders of the Hudson. In Orange we hear this operation in a summer morning at every farm house It is a great saving of labor to the family which has a barrel of milk to churn daily. In one place I saw a sheep treading the diagonal platform, and another tied at hand to relieve him.

†Liverpool blown salt will not keep butter sweet, and is besides deleterious to health when used for culinary purposes See the analysis of this salt in an early No. of the New-York Medical Journal, by Drs Miller and Mitchell. They ascribe to its use much of the sickness which afflicts parts of our country. Pure alum salt alone should be used, after it is ground or well pounded. The salt made at Onondaga, by solar evaporation, and sold in casks, for table use, is perhaps as pure muriate of soda as comes in the market.

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